

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Agency: Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

2. Executive Committee Member:

Katy Coba, Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Ph 503-986-4552
Fax 503-986-4750
Email kcoba@oda.state.or.us

Tribal Liaison:

John Byers - Operations Manager
Natural Resources Division
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Ph 503-986-4718
Fax 503-986-4730
Email jbyers@oda.state.or.us

3. Department Statement:

In August 2007, the department developed and implemented a policy (Policy # 10-00-23) in fulfillment of Senate Bill 770; "relationships with tribes". Copies of the statement may be obtained from the director's office, or from the tribal liaison.

4. Major areas of work with Oregon tribes FY 2006 - 2007:

John Byers, Natural Resources Division Operations Manager, represents the agency in the Natural Resources Cluster of the Government-to-Government organization, a committee that includes representatives of natural resource agencies and Oregon's tribes. This group exchanges information and updates and promotes appreciation for and understanding of tribal and state programs and processes.

Oregon Department of Agriculture divisions serving the needs of and providing assistance to Oregon tribes during FY 2006 - 2007 were:

Agricultural Development and Marketing Division: The Agricultural Development and Marketing Division finds solutions and creates marketing opportunities for Oregon's food and agricultural industry. It offers assistance through the development and retention of production and processing capacity, and is available to help with the promotion and marketing of tribes' agricultural and food products industries.

Animal Health and Livestock Identification Division: The Animal Health and Livestock

Identification Division (AHID) has the responsibility to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases in animals. The AHID, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, has worked with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) in the past to survey their horses for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). Our federal veterinary counterparts have conducted animal health liaison visits on the Warm Springs reservation.

Through a Homeland Security cooperative agreement, the division has distributed emergency disease preparedness plans that have been developed on the subject. The tribes have been asked to keep close watch on their livestock for symptoms of unknown diseases and to contact a veterinarian as soon as any suspicious systems arise. AHID staff is available to provide assistance to the tribes on livestock health issues.

The Oregon Animal Disease Emergency Management Plan calls for ODA to take action to protect Oregon livestock from any foreign or emerging disease. Such actions may include wide spread quarantine, animal depopulation, and carcass disposal. These actions may have an impact on tribal lands and require coordination of response activities with tribal governments. In 2006, ODA continued communications with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the CTWS to discuss agreements that would promote optimal cooperation during a highly contagious animal disease emergency. There were no further discussions in 2007 and no agreements were settled.

In 2006, AHID met with the CTUIR new Emergency Management Coordinator and agreed to assist the Coordinator in developing the Tribes Animal Disease Emergency Management Plan. In 2007 they continued the process of plan development

AHID continues to work with the Warm Springs and Umatilla Tribes to help them with brand inspection and stray livestock issues.

AHID staff have met with members of the CTUIR to discuss their options under the National Animal Identification System.

Measurement Standards Division: The Measurement Standards Division (MSD) assures consumers that the weight or measure of food and nonfood products, services or commodities purchased in Oregon is accurate. MSD checks the quantity labeling on packaged products, investigate complaints, and annually inspect 54,000 scales, gas pumps, and meters statewide.

Although tribes are not inspected by MSD, Oregon tribes have requested that MSD license and test their gas pumps at specific locations.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2210, requiring that all gasoline sold in Oregon be blended with 10% by volume ethanol. Tribes are not subject to this requirement. Information regarding the possibility that gasoline containing ethanol requires different storage maintenance than "non-ethanol" gasoline has been provided to tribal members. Although not required to store or sell gasoline with ethanol, tribes may find it difficult to identify gasoline suppliers who handle non-ethanol gasoline. Consequently, tribes need to be aware of the potential storage issues.

Natural Resource Division: The Natural Resources Division is responsible for regulating agricultural practices for the protection of water quality; it coordinates its planning process at the basin and sub-basin levels with tribes and with federal land management agencies. Participation from local tribes

has been sought in the advisory groups to ensure that tribal concerns about water quality and endangered species protection are provided a forum among agricultural producers.

Water Quality Program

Water Quality Specialist, Tom Straughan, interacted with tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the following projects or programs:

- Mr. Straughan continues to participate in the monthly meetings of the Tiicham Conservation District, chaired by Louie Dick, member of the CTUIR and an at-large director of the Umatilla County SWCD.
- He interacts with CTUIR staff regarding many of the natural resource issues affecting the Umatilla Basin. These include the OWEB Small Grant Team, the Umatilla Technical Team that coordinates the basin-wide water quality-monitoring project, Watershed Field Days, Umatilla Agricultural Water Quality Management Local Advisory Committee, and the Critical Groundwater Task Force.

Water Quality Specialist, Eric Nusbaum assisted in the review of the Coquille Subbasin Salmon Restoration Plan developed by the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Water Quality Specialist Ellen Hammond and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) work together collecting, sharing, and interpreting water quality data collected from the Middle and Upper Deschutes Basin. CTWS was also invited to provide content to the Jefferson County Rural Living Handbook.

Hydrologist Paul Measeles provided training on Relative Bed Stability stream surveying techniques to members of the Coos-Coquille Tribe.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Grant SWCD has a close working relationship with the CTWS to develop and install restoration and irrigation diversion improvement projects in the Upper John Day Basin through BPA funding. SWCD staff does the engineering and design work and administration of the contracting for the projects.

The Wheeler SWCD works closely with CTWS staff on projects and programs in the Middle John Day area including the tribally owned Pine Creek properties.

The Monument SWCD, Umatilla County SWCD, and North Fork John Day Watershed Council cooperate with CTUIR staff in developing restoration projects in the North Fork John Day watershed.